



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

### *Legislative Update*

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE**

#### **DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, AS OF 0600**

#### **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)**

##### **Authorities**

- USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities:
  - The Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act (P.L. 84-99).
  - The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288).

##### **Command and Control**

- Commander, USACE is Lieutenant General Strock in Washington, D.C.
- USACE Task Force Commander is Major General Don Riley in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Commander is Brigadier General Crear in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His area of operations covers the States of Louisiana and Mississippi.
- South Atlantic Division Commander is Brigadier General Walsh in Atlanta, Georgia. His area of operations covers the States of Alabama and Florida.

##### **Operational Highlights**

- 1,132 USACE personnel are on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations.
  - This number includes 47 soldiers from the 249<sup>th</sup> Prime Power Battalion.
- MVD has formed Task Force Unwater to synergize the efficiencies of the multiple district resources engaged.
  - Task Force Unwater added 15 additional pumps into operations since yesterday. City/Parish Pumps, 21 Operating at a total of 9,163 cfs and 7 auxiliary pumps operating at a total of 565 cfs.
  - Environment Protection Agency has issued a permit waiver for discharge of flood waters.
  - Clearing and Snagging unit closing the deliberate breach at Bohemia now that gravity draining out of the flooded areas has ceased.
  - Contractor installed nine staff gauges to better measure progress in basins.
  - Unit is attempting to recon pumping station status in Plaquemines Parish through locals/station workers.
  - Actions for next 24 hours: Pumping operations will continue and water levels will continue to drop within city. Contractor will install additional depth gauges that will provide us the data needed to improve our modeling and track progress. Expect 94 German engineers with pumps and equipment to arrive over the next several days. Coordinating for their life support and logistics.



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

### *Legislative Update*

- Water and Ice: 31,752,000 liters of water and 93,760,000 lbs of ice delivered to date.
  - Water and ice deliveries were impacted by transportation and production issues over Labor Day weekend.
  - Continuing efforts to push vendors and transportation to produce and deliver product. Working with FEMA and USACE Water & Ice Team to reconcile shortfalls.
- Debris:
  - Emergency clearing of US 90 in Louisiana completed Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, however, it remains impassable due to drawbridge and closed floodgate.
  - Contractor continues removing debris in Lafourche Parish; over 2,640 CY removed on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Still awaiting debris estimates and baseline for removal broken down by parish. Meeting again with St. James and St. Johns Parishes today. Four additional parishes, Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Helen, and Livingston have requested Corps assistance.
- Roofing:
  - Will establish a “Rights of Entry” (ROE) collection point on the route to Jefferson Parish. Contractor on ground with 30 crews but lack of life support a challenge.
  - Rolled plastic sheeting was delivered last night and expect roofing mission to begin in earnest today.
- Power: 46 Prime Power soldiers working in the area.
  - Last 24 hours: Continued working assessments and generator installs in Mississippi and Louisiana. Primary effort in LA is getting power to pumping stations.
    - Completed Pump Station 6 and beginning work on Pump Station 7.
    - Have completed 261 assessments and 77 generator installs to date.
  - Next 24 hours: Continue to work overhead power line to Pump Station 7.
- Navigation:
  - Mississippi River is open to shallow draft traffic and deep draft vessels less than 39’ (daylight only). Contractor working to remove obstacles in Southwest Pass.
  - Harvey Lock, Algiers Canal and Lock are operating. Gulf Intercoastal Water Way is open from Texas to Florida via Baptiste Collette.
  - Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) remains non operational due to bridge closures and sunken barges. Contractor working to repair. The IHNC lock is working.
- Housing:
  - FEMA’s Housing Area Command working requirements to temporarily house 500,000 through a combination of travel trailers, mobile homes, hotels, and cruise ships.